



Flu Shots for Health Care Providers – A Strategy That Works

Mary Beth Koslap-Petraco, MS, CPNP
Linda Mermelstein, MD, MPH
Suffolk County Department of Health Services

Thanks to our Sponsors:

- School of Public Health, University at Albany
- NYS Department of Health
- NYS Community Health Partnership

Special Thanks to

- NYS Association of County Health Officials
- NYS Nurses Association

Viewer Call-In

Phone: 800-452-0662

Fax: 518-426-0696

Evaluations

Complete your evaluation and post-test online at:

www.albany.edu/sph/coned/t2b2flu.html

School of Public Health Continuing Education

For more information please contact us or log on to our website.

518-402-0330

www.albany.edu/sph/coned/t2b2.html

**Thanks to Gail P. Snyder, RN
Infection Control Nurse at
John Jay Foley Skilled Nursing
Facility for her generous
contribution to the preparation
of this paper**

Statement of Problem

- **Health care providers (HCP) have low influenza vaccine immunization rates**
 - 30% nationally
 - Suffolk County Department of Health Services staff rate was 20.2% in Health Centers

Statement of Problem

- Low rates increase risk for high risk patients
- HCPs have misconceptions regarding perceived side effects
- HCPs put low priority on Influenza vaccine for themselves

Institutional Support Issues

- **SCDHS administration supports influenza protection for staff having patient contact**
 - Support from top down
 - Commissioner
 - Health Services Administration
 - Medical Directors
 - Nursing Supervisors

Inactivated Influenza Side Effects

- Soreness at injection site
- Mild flu like symptoms 5-7 days following immunization
- Many HCPs believe Guillian Barre is side effect of Flu vaccine
 - Invalid perception

Institute of Medicine Report

- **IOM studied relationship between Influenza vaccine and GBS**
 - Report issued 10/6/03
- **Results**
 - *Favored* acceptance of causal relationship between GBS and 1976 Swine flu vaccine
 - All other years inadequate to accept or reject relationship

Institute of Medicine Report

- **Multiple Sclerosis relapse in adults**
 - Favored rejection of causal relationship
- No reason to suspect causal relationship might exist between Flu vaccine and onset or incident of MS in adults
- Inadequate evidence to accept or reject relationship between Flu vaccine and other neurological conditions

Institute of Medicine

- **Direct neurotoxic effect**
 - Only theoretical
- **Recommendations**
 - Modify current influenza risk communication (i.e. VIS)
 - No policy review on basis of neurological complications
 - Continue research and to monitor

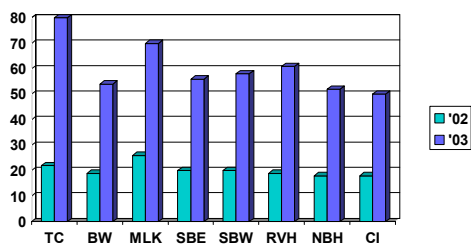
Method

- **John Jay Foley Skilled Nursing Facility has successfully increased immunization rates**
 - Times designated to specifically immunize staff
 - Educational program was integral part of plan

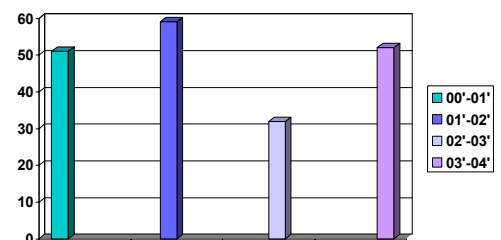
Method

- **Similar model was used in health centers**
 - Each health center designated time specifically for immunizations of staff
 - Reminder memos and educational information circulated to staff

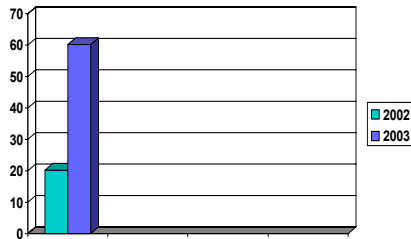
Immunization Rates for Health Centers



Immunization Rates for John Jay Foley Skilled Nursing Facility



Overall Immunization Rate for 2002 vs. 2003 for Health Centers



Variables at John Jay Foley

- Rapid change over of staff
 - Need to institute educational program annually
- Reluctance of young staff members to accept immunization – “needle phobia”

Variables at John Jay Foley

- “Go to” the staff where they are!
- Don’t give up!

Conclusion

- Focusing on specific time for Health Care Provider Flu immunization improves compliance
- Educational interventions can be successful
- Solutions do not have to be expensive
- Simple solutions can often work best

Resources

APIC Toolkit
<http://66.11.193.197/Content.html>

MassPro Health Care Employee Flu
Immunization Campaign Kit
<http://www.masspro.org/healthpro/hcqip/outpatient/immunizations.htm>

Evaluations

Complete your evaluation and
post-test online at:

www.albany.edu/sph/coned/t2b2flu.html

**School of Public Health
Continuing Education**

**For more information please contact us
or log on to our website.**

518-402-0330

www.albany.edu/sph/coned/t2b2.html